

## State Representative John “Jack” Stone

Dear Friends,

It continues to be an honor and privilege to serve as your state representative. If you have any comments or suggestions for state legislation in the coming year, I would be glad to hear from you.

Enclosed is an update on some of the major issues that were addressed during the 2006 session.

As always, I look forward to assisting with any state related or consumer issues that you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact me with comments, suggestions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Rep. Stone confers with Gov. M. Jodi Rell on issues affecting the 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly District of Fairfield and Trumbull.

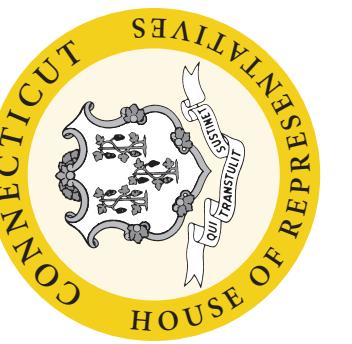


State Representative

**JOHN “JACK” STONE**  
**Proudly Serving the 134<sup>th</sup> District**

Fairfield • Trumbull

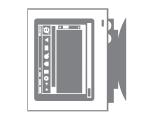
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Representative John “Jack” Stone  
Room 4200, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

TELEPHONE:  
(800) 842-1423

E-MAIL:  
jack.stone@housegop.ct.gov



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**[www.housegop.ct.gov](http://www.housegop.ct.gov)**

# 2006 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative  
**JOHN “JACK” STONE**  
**Proudly Serving the 134<sup>th</sup> District**  
Fairfield • Trumbull

**Reps. Jack Stone  
and T.R. Rowe  
discuss legislation  
on the floor of the  
House of  
Representatives in  
Hartford.**



## PROTECTING YOUR INTERESTS

As in past years, I am working hard for taxpayers, children, families and senior citizens. I am happy to report that the legislature agreed to several initiatives to hold down spending, protect the environment, help save for college education, improve transportation and stimulate job growth. If you would like further information, please visit our website at [www.housegop.ct.gov](http://www.housegop.ct.gov). Following are some of the highlights:

### Voting for Job Creation

Connecticut continues to lag behind the nation in new jobs and economic growth. I fought for legislation to roll back some of the high taxes that put Connecticut at a competitive disadvantage with other states. The property tax on manufacturing equipment will be phased out, the corporate tax surcharge that was reimposed last year will be eliminated, and tax credits will encourage companies to hire employees and produce movies in Connecticut.

New legislation will encourage innovation through faculty recruitment and an entrepreneurial center at UConn, provide funds for small business incubators, and create programs to finance early stage ventures and to match federal research assistance. The state will establish pilot math and science grant programs and student loan repayment grants for engineering and doctoral students. Several initiatives will promote research in the growing field of nanotechnology, a branch of engineering that deals with the design and manufacture of extremely small electronic circuits and mechanical devices built at the molecular level.

### For the Environment

The state will establish a greenhouse gas labeling program for new motor vehicles starting with 2009 models, under a bill that I cosponsored. New legislation also will require public notification about contaminated sites and private drinking water wells.

### For Transportation

With my strong support, the legislature authorized a 10-year, \$2.3-billion transportation package in addition to last year's \$1.3-billion plan that included 342 new cars for the Metro-North commuter rail line. Future authorized projects include more commuter rail service, stations and parking facilities and removal of I-95 bottlenecks.

### For Property Owners

The legislature created an Ombudsman for Property Rights to help property owners with eminent domain disputes. That is a start, but I supported stronger legislation to restrict governmental ability to take private property for economic development.

### For Seniors/Veterans/Healthcare

A new law allows towns and cities to freeze property taxes for homes owned by people age 70 or older. Homemaker-companion agencies must register with the Department of Consumer Protection and employees must undergo background checks. Legislation will protect jobs and finances of National Guard members who are called up for state service such as natural disasters. The legislature updated Connecticut law on end of life decisions, hospital acquired infections and umbilical cord blood banking.

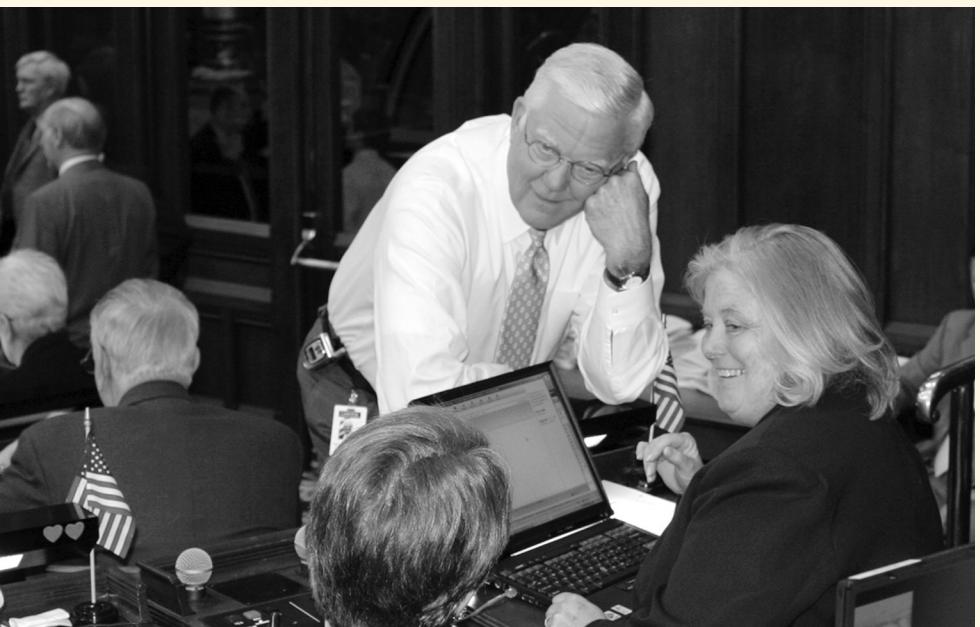
### For Children, Education

I continued the fight for more state aid for local public schools under the state's Education Cost Sharing formula. Some state school aid increases were approved, but at less than full funding. Good news is that families can now take a state income tax deduction when they save up to \$10,000 for a child's education in the Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET). With my support, the legislature approved \$875 million in local school construction reimbursements including increased grants for reauthorized projects.

### State Budget

I supported adjustments to the state budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006. The budget provides \$245.7 million for the underfunded Teachers' Retirement System, \$85.5 million to pay off debt from the 2003 fiscal crisis, \$33 million in property tax relief to the towns and \$189 million saved in the state Rainy Day Fund for future economic downturns and other emergencies.

Grants to towns increase by \$115.5 million to \$2.557 billion for Fiscal Year 2007. Aid for special education students increases by \$35 million. Taxpayers can take a property tax credit of up to \$500 when filing 2006 state income returns, up from \$400. A \$1-million pilot program will help adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders find employment and live independently. I cosponsored several amendments on the House floor to reform or repeal the Connecticut estate tax that was reimposed in 2005. They were rejected by the Democratic majority. Gov. Rell proposed to eliminate the annual car tax, which was also not enacted by the majority.



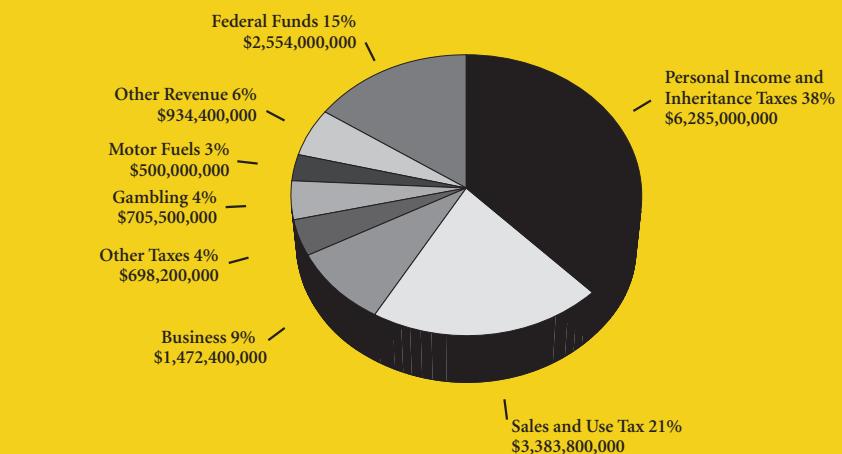
Rep. Jack Stone and Rep. Cathy Tymniak talk with Rep. Livvy Floren, back to camera, on the floor of the House in Hartford.

### Underage Drinking

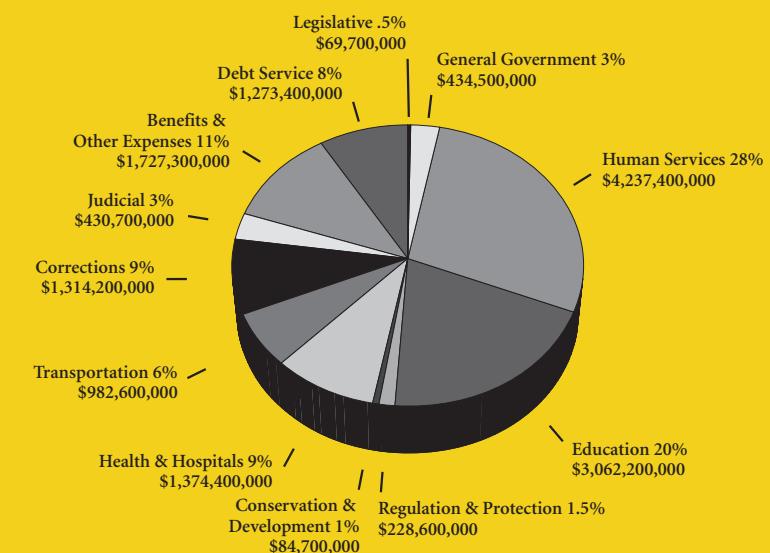
To help reduce dangerous teen drinking parties, I cosponsored HB 5211. This makes it illegal for an adult to knowingly permit minors to possess alcohol on his or her property or fail to make reasonable efforts to stop the possession of alcohol. The bill makes a first offense an infraction. Subsequent offenses will be subject to up to one year in prison, a fine of up to \$500, or both.

**BUDGET ENDING JUNE 30, 2006**  
The 2006 general fund and the special transportation fund spends \$15.2 billion.

## WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



## WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



\*In addition to an expected surplus, the difference between expenditures and revenues is due to tax refunds.